

The Stages of Wound Healing After Surgery for Pets

Every pet heals a little differently, but most surgical incisions heal in a predictable pattern. Here's what to expect as your pet recovers.



1 Days 1–3 Inflammatory Phase



- The incision may be red, swollen, or slightly warm.
- Mild bruising or a small amount of discharge (clear or slightly bloody) can be normal.
- Your pet may be sore and tired.



What to do:

Keep the area clean and dry. Prevent licking or chewing. Rest and limited activity are key.

2 Days 4–7 Proliferative Phase



- Redness and swelling should start to decrease.
- The incision edges are beginning to close.
- Scabs may start to form.



What to do:

Continue to keep the incision clean and prevent licking. Most pets start feeling better and more like themselves!

3 Days 8–14 Early Remodeling Phase



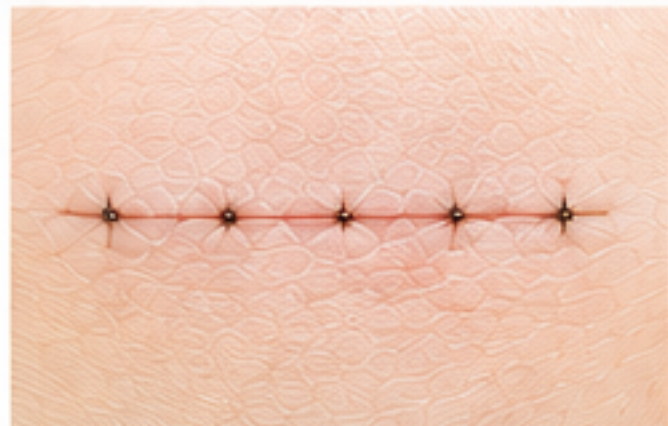
- Scabs may flake off.
- The incision should look drier, with little to no discharge.
- Pink tissue forms under the skin as healing continues.



What to do:

You may notice more energy and activity. Continue restricting activity and preventing licking until fully healed.

4 Weeks 3–4 Late Remodeling Phase



- The incision continues to strengthen.
- The skin may look pink or slightly raised.
- Hair may start to grow back around the area.



What to do:

Most pets can gradually return to normal activities as advised by your veterinarian.

5 Weeks 4–8+ Maturation Phase



- The incision becomes stronger and flatter.
- Scar tissue softens and fades.
- The area should look and feel normal.



What to do:

Enjoy your happy, healthy pet! The scar will continue to improve over time.



REMEMBER

Every pet heals at their own pace. If you have any concerns, we're here to help!

